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**Central Halls High School**

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*The mission of Central Falls School is to develop its diverse student population into responsible citizens, effective communicators, innovative problem-solvers and critical thinkers who are able to fully participate in and positively contribute to society. The school community is committed to the attainment of high standards by ensuring a literacy-rich learning environment and providing results-oriented educational leadership at all levels.*

**Introduction**

Central Falls High School is the only high school in Central Falls District and it was established in 1928. The high school is located in northeastern Rhode Island and is 6 miles north of the state’s capitol. The current principal of Central Falls High School is Joshua Laplante and the average salary of a high school principal in Rhode Island is $34,000. (Indeed 2013) According to (U.S News 2013), there are currently 832 students and 82 teachers enrolled at Central Falls High School. The city of Central Falls has a population of 19,376 with 5,644 children classified as under the age of 18. Central Falls covers an area of only 1.29 square miles and the town filed bankruptcy in 2011, creating a dramatic impact on student education. The key factors that impact student achievement within education include, poverty, Non-English speaking background, parent’s educational background, special learning needs and minority racial-group identity. Within this context statement I will provide statistical tables and analysis to provide current and future attendants of Central Falls High School with a accurate background of what Central Falls High School is like economically, ethnically, and educationally.

**Community Background**

The community of Central Falls as a whole is considered low income. The average household income in Central Falls is $32,759 compared to Rhode Island’s average income of $55,975, which is drastically lower than Rhode Island’s average. The median family income of Central Falls is $40,032 compared to Rhode Island’s average of $72,724. Rhode Island’s median family income is slightly higher than the United State’s because the average median family income of the United States is $52,762. All families below poverty in Central Falls are 24.6% which is higher than Rhode Island (8.9%) and the United States (10.5%) combined. Central Falls as a community has become equally diverse. 52.9% of the population within Central Falls is White while Rhode Island as a whole has a White population of 81.4%. The rest of the percentages for the majority come from Black/African Americans and Hispanic or Latino people. Central Falls has a population of 10.1% Black/African Americans and 6.9% Hispanic or Latino people while Rhode Island has a population of 5.7% Black/African Americans and 12.4% Hispanic or Latino people.

Income/Poverty Data Table Race/Ethnicity Data Table

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Central Falls | Rhode Island | United States |
| White | 44.24% | 81.4% | 72.4% |
| Black/African Americans | 6.24% | 5.7% | 12.6% |
| Asian | 0.74% | 2.9% | 4.8% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 0.19% | 12.4% | 16.3% |
| American Indian/Alaska native | 0.17% | 0.4% | 0.7% |
| Other | 48.43% | 12% | 0.6% |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Central Falls | Rhode Island | United States |
| Median household income | $32,759 | $55,975 | $52,762 |
| Median family income | $40,032 | $72,724 | $64,293 |
| Per capita income | $15,235 | $29,685 | $27,915 |
| All families below poverty | 24.6% | 8.9% | 10.5% |
| All people below poverty | 27.7% | 12.8% | 14.3% |

**Community Background Continued**

The community of Central Falls compared to Rhode Island is significantly different when analyzed by census-based indicators. Rhode Island has a child population of 223,956 while Central Falls has a child population of only 5,644. There is also an 18% difference between children in a single-parent home in Rhode Island (31%) compared to Centrals Falls (49%). The number of children living in families below the federal poverty threshold is also doubled in Central Falls at a percent of 36.9% while Rhode Island has a percentage of only 17.9%. Households with grandparents financially responsible for grandchildren are significantly low with both areas. Rhode Island households with grandparents financially responsible for grandchildren are 6% while Central Falls is at 8%. The Economic Well-Being of Rhode Island and Central Falls is relatively the same. Rhode Island has 5% of their children in families receiving cash assistance while Central Falls has 9%. School Breakfast Program participation is slightly different with Central Falls having an 8% increase making it 43% and Rhode Island has 35%.

Census-based Indicators Economic Well-Being

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Central Falls | Rhode Island |
| Children in families receiving cash assistance | 9% | 5% |
| School Breakfast Program participation | 43% | 35% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Central Falls | Rhode Island |
| Child population | 5,644 | 223,936 |
| Children in single parent families | 49% | 31% |
| Children living in families below poverty | 36.9% | 17.9% |
| Households with grandparents financially responsible for children | 8% | 6% |

**District Summary**

When compared to Rhode Island State the Central Falls School District has a lower percentage of proficiency for the New England Common Assessment Program or NECAP testing. In the census of 2012-2013 the 5th grade reading proficiency percentage of Rhode Island was 72% while the reading proficiency of Central Falls was 10%. The math scores had a 50% difference with Rhode Island state proficiency being 69% and Centrals Falls being 42%. Three years later, Rhode Island state proficiency increased in reading to 77% while Central Falls had a significant increase to 41%. The math proficiency within both areas had decreased between 5th and 8th grade. Rhode Island math proficiency became 58% and Central Falls lowered to 20%. In 11th grade, the same pattern occurs were reading proficiency increases slightly and math proficiency drops more dramatically. Rhode Island reading profiency for 11th grade was 79% while Central Falls was 46%. Math proficiency lowered in Rhode Island to 34%, and Central Falls proficiency fell to an astonishing 14%.

**NECAPS 2012-2013**

***Qualifications and Teacher-Student ratio***

Emergency certifications are when individual teachers do not fully qualify for state certification but are granted to teach when fully certified applicants are not available. A 2010-2011 census was provided to show that Rhode Island and Centrals both have significantly low Teachers with emergency certifications. Rhode Island is at 1% of teachers with emergency certifications and Central Falls has 2%. A Highly Qualified teacher consists of a Bachelor’s Degree, a full state certification and demonstrates subject matter. The state and Central Falls District are meeting NCLB standards or No Child Left Behind. The standards for a state are that all students have highly qualified teachers, particularly minority and disadvantaged students and publicly report plans and progress in meeting teacher quality goals. Rhode Island state has 3% not Highly Qualified teachers while Central Falls has 6%. The Teacher-Student ratio of each area is also considered low with Rhode Island Teacher-Student ratio being 1:11 and Central Falls being1:10.

***Student Characteristics***

Students eligible for subsidized lunch were shockingly high for a state with the median income being higher than the United States. A 2012-2013 census provided statistics that the state of Rhode Island has a percentage of 46& students eligible for subsidized lunch while Central Falls is at a dramatically high 86%. Rhode Island student receiving Bilingual Education Services was low, being at 6% while Central Falls was at 25%. Students receiving Special Education services were also low within Rhode Island (15%) and Centrals was slightly higher at 22%.

**Qualifications and Teacher-Student Ratio Student Characteristics**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Student Characteristics | Rhode Island | Central Falls | Barrington | East Providence |
| Student Eligibility for subsidized lunch | 46% | 86% | 5% | 48% |
| Students Receiving Bilingual Education Services | 6% | 25% | 2% | 3% |
| Students Receiving Special Education Services | 15% | 22% | 12% | 18% |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualifications and Teacher-student ratio | Rhode Island | Central Falls | Barrington | East Providence |
| Teachers with Emergency Certification | 1% | 2% | 0% | 1% |
| Not Highly Qualified Teachers | 3% | 6% | 1% | 3% |
| Teacher-Student ration | 1:11 | 1:10 | 1:12 | 1:10 |

***Attendance and Graduation Rates***

The Rhode Island state attendance was remarkably high for the 2011-2012 census. Rhode Island Elementary schools were at a 95%, middle schools were at a 94% and high schools were at a 91%. The overall attendance of the Rhode Island schools was 94% with the percentage that graduated in high school being 77.1%. Rhode Island school drop out rate was 11.9% with the percent receiving their GED being 3.2%. Within the Central Falls District the average attendance rate throughout all schools was slightly lower than the state’s being at 90%. 94% attended elementary school, 93% attended middle school and 82% attended high school. The percent that graduated high school was 68.1% with the percent that dropped out being 14.8%. No students pursued their GED within the Central Falls School District.

**School Analysis**

Central Falls High School is an underachieved school academically compared to the other schools in Rhode Island such as Barrington High School and East Providence High School. NECAP Assessments, and AP Exam scores all provide accurate information regarding the different academic scores within these schools. Barrington High School has proved to be an astounding school academic wise throughout my research. Barrington’s 11th grade math proficiency is at 70% while the 11th grade reading proficiency is at 94%. East Providence high school is relatively close to the statewide proficiency, with 11th grade math being at 29% and reading proficiency being at 82%. Central Falls High School is 50% lower than these entire scores academic wise within the NECAP Assessments. Central Falls High School has a math proficiency of 14% and a reading proficiency of 47%. SAT Exam scores also showed a dramatic difference. The number of exams taken in Barrington High School was 561 and East Providence was 117. The number of students to take exams in Barrington and East Providence were 279 and 68. In Central Falls High School 131 exams were taken with the number of students to take the exam were only 105. Out of 561 exams taken at Barrington High School, 479 of those exams scored at College-Level Mastery. 35 out of 117 of the East Providence exams scored at College-Level Mastery and only 17 out of the 131 at Central Falls scored College-Level Mastery.

NECAP AP Exams

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AP Exams | Central Falls High School | Barrington High School | East Providence High School |
| Number of exams Taken | 131 | 561 | 117 |
| Number of Students to Take Exam | 105 | 279 | 68 |
| Exams Scored at College-Level Mastery | 17 | 479 | 35 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NECAP Assessments | Central Falls High School | Barrington High School | East Providence High School |
| 11th Grade Math | 14% | 70% | 29% |
| 11th Grade Reading | 47% | 94% | 82% |
| 11th Grade Writing | 22% | 62% | 47% |
| 11th Grade Science | 14% | 68% | 45% |

***Student Characteristics***

Student eligibility for subsidized lunch is vastly different between Central Falls High School, Barrington High School and East Providence. Central Falls High School has a higher amount of Students Receiving Bilingual Education Services compared to Barrington High School and East Providence High School. Central Falls High School has a percentage of 70% who are eligible for subsidized lunch while Barrington has only 5% ad East Providence High School has 41%. 23% of students are receiving Bilingual Education Services in Central Falls High School while Barrington High and East Providence only have 1%.

***Attendance and Graduation Rate***

The attendance rates of Central Falls High School, Barrington High School and East Providence High School are relatively the same but the percentage of students who graduated in 2012 are vastly different. Barrington High School had an attendance rate of 96%, Chronic Absenteeism of 6% with a graduation rate of 94.6% in 2012. 0.7% dropped out at Barrington High School, 0.7% and that percent also received their GED. 4% of Barrington’s 2012 class is still in high school. East Providence had an attendance rate of 98%, Chronic Absenteeism of 24% with a graduation rate of 71.3% in 2012. 15.9% dropped out, 2.8% received their GED and 10% are still in high school. The Central Falls High School has a lower attendance rate of 82%, Chronic Absenteeism of 49% and a graduation rate of 69.6% in 2012. 13.8% dropped out of the Central Falls high School, 3.2% received their GED, and 7.8% are still in high school. The number of incidents that happened in Central Falls was 719 while Barrington had a dramatically low 10 and East Providence had 607.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Central Falls High School | Barrington High School | East Providence High School |
| Attendance Rate | 82% | 96% | 98% |
| Chronic Absenteeism | 49% | 6% | 24% |
| Percent Graduated in 2012 | 69.6% | 94.6% | 71.3% |
| Percent Dropped Out | 13.8% | 0.7% | 15.9% |
| Percent Received GED | 0 | 0.7% | 2.8% |
| Percent Still in School | 16.6% | 4% | 10% |
| Number of Incidents | 719 | 10 | 607 |

**Conclusion**

The School Analysis of Central Falls High School provides accurate information informing the reader of the schools testing placement compared to other schools within the state. While we compared several schools within the state Barrington was used as the relatively high academic school and also economic status. East Providence was used as my middle ground school for achievement and Central Falls was used as the class model for low academic achievement. Central Falls High School has a math proficiency of 14% and a reading proficiency of 47%. 17 exams out of 131 AP exams scored at College-Level Mastery. Nearly half of the school is eligibly for subsidized lunch and the graduation rate at Central Falls High School is 69.6%.

The district summary for Central Falls also has the same findings as Central Fall High School. One example is that Rhode Island’s 5th grade reading proficiency was 72% and Central Falls School District was 10%. Student eligibility for subsidized school lunch in the Barrington School District is 5%, East Providence’s School District is 48% which is relatively close to the state’s level and Central Falls School District has a dramatic 86% eligible for subsidized lunch.

The community of Central Falls as a whole is considered low income compared to the state of Rhode Island. The median family income of Central Falls is $40,032 compared to Rhode Island’s average of $72,724. Central Falls has a community that is equally diverse. 52.9% of the population within Central Falls is White while Rhode Island as a whole has a White population of 81.4%. Rhode Island has a child population of 223,956 while Central Falls has a child population of only 5,644 and 49% of these 5,644 children live in a single-parent home. These findings are important because it demonstrates that while Central Falls has low education standards and a low economic status, the culture and diversity in this district is high above the state of Rhode Island.

**References**

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